

districts can opt out within one year, but I am wondering what effect that may also have because you have some situations where a large school district in an ESU may feel that they don't get their money's worth or they can do these things on their own, so they opt out of the ESU, and thereby weaken the ESU to the detriment of the other members of that ESU. So, I realize there has been much effort put into the bill, but I guess I would urge caution, and I am just saying, let's just consider it over the summer. It will sit here poised for passage next year, if indeed it is a good bill. I think some people would like to have an opportunity to chat about it some more, so I am offering that opportunity. I would ask that the bill be bracketed until early next session when we can take another look at the bill.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Withem, please, then, Senator Morehead, on the bracketing motion.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body, I would oppose the bracketing motion. My predecessor as Chairman of the Education Committee had a nasty habit that he did with a great deal of proficiency, and that is he used to plant time bombs in the statutes that were set to go off at a particular time. We have got a time bomb in the statute with LB 688 and ESUs. Effective July 1, I believe, of this year, any school district in the state may opt out of an educational service unit if we don't pass this legislation. LB 688 in its current form is the best product that the task force chaired by Senator Miller, the Education Committee, the ad hoc group that came together during the session to look at some of the stickier points, all three of those entities have come together and they support 688 in its current form. It is a good bill. It makes a lot of good reforms in educational service units without damaging the basic structure. If you want to damage the basic structure of ESUs, vote for Senator Lamb's amendment, because what it does, it provides for an indefinite opt out of educational service units. There will be no cohesiveness in educational service units if this bracket motion passes. Personally, I represent an area of the state that has become somewhat frustrated with educational service units, the ones that they represent. I have school districts in my county that frankly would just as soon not see 688 pass because they like the indefinite time, immemorial opt out provision of educational service units. I don't think that is good public policy. I think that educational service units in many, many parts of the state are a vital part of the education delivery system. If you don't pass 688, you basically left it so that there will be no